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# Chicopee Register

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# World War II veteran honored

*Street name misspelled no more*

**By Dalton Zbierski**
*Staff Writer*

Above, Massachusetts Commander of the Order of the Purple Heart Brian Willette salutes a corrected street sign honoring fallen World War II service member Dave Ferguson. Inset, Dave Ferguson, a Chicopee resident and U.S. Airmen, gave the ultimate sacrifice in World War II.
*TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

In the process of correcting a misspelling, Chicopee has brought new honor to a fallen service member, David Ferguson. A Chicopee resident and U.S. Army Corps. airman, Ferguson was killed on Aug. 6, 1945, when his plane was shot down over the Himalayas.

To recognize Ferguson's ultimate sacrifice, the city named a small road off of Memorial Drive "Ferguson St." Unfortunately, the street sign's spelling was erroneous, a mistake that was brought to light by 85-year-old Albert Bail, who befriended Ferguson as a child.

"This fellow named Albert Bail was a childhood friend; he was a little guy watching big Dave Ferguson go off to war. He idolized David," said Brian Willette, Massachusetts Commander of the Purple Heart.

Stephanie Shaw, director of the Veterans Services Department, was alerted to the misspelling last year, but was unable to resolve the issue prior to the pandemic. When Willette contacted Shaw days before Purple Heart Day on August 7, the two veterans teamed up with the Department of Public Works to right the mistake.

"It had taken enough time and needed to be buttoned up," said Shaw. "I called the DPW and was really grateful for their willingness to support this request and to correct the error."

Instead of merely changing the street sign, Willette, Shaw and the DPW rallied to honor Ferguson. The DPW produced a new marker that features a combination of an American flag and a POW

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EDUCATION

# School Committee opts for hybrid learning

**By Dalton Zbierski**
*Staff Writer*

The Chicopee School Committee made a historic but controversial decision on Aug. 12, opting to adapt a hybrid learning plan that will see students return to the classroom in a phased-in strategy. Hours of tense discussion spread across multiple meetings culminated with an 8-3 vote in favor of the staggered approach.

The Chicopee School Committee decided last week to adopt a hybrid plan entering next school year. The Central Office of Chicopee Public Schools is located at 180 Broadway St.
*TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

"I don't think that I've ever seen an administrative team or educators work so hard at something that is a lose/lose battle; that will make so many people upset," said Superintendent Lynn Clark before the final vote was cast.

Clark advocated heavily for the multi-phased hybrid return, which will see all levels of special education and special circumstance students reenter the district's school buildings on Sept.15. On Sept. 28, transitional students in preschool, kindergarten, first grade, sixth grade and ninth grade will begin in-person learning.

If all goes well, the third phase will begin three weeks later when students in grades two, three, seven and 10 return to school. With the exception of high school juniors and seniors, students in the remaining grades will reenter their buildings three weeks later.

As part of Phase 3, juniors and seniors can only enter the high schools for tutoring, counseling and services, and will continue with remote learning until a return plan is mapped out. All students will have an option to commit to at minimum a quarter-semester of remote learning; approximately 600 students have already done so.

A significant number of parents, students and teachers expressed their desire for the committee to adopt a remote learning plan during the public comment segment of the meeting. Several representatives adamantly agreed, opposing the eventual decision to adapt a hybrid model.

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Albert Bail, a childhood friend of Dave Ferguson, speaks to Ferguson's family members at a ceremony held on Ferguson St. on Aug.7. *TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

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MIA flag.

"Having the POW MIA sign on there really indicates that this is someone who is still missing," said Shaw, alluding to the fact that Ferguson's body was never recovered. "I would never want to see Ferguson St. have its name changed to something else. I want to make sure that those streets that were dedicated to service members stay dedicated to those people."

On Aug.7, a small ceremony was held on Ferguson Street as the new street sign was unveiled. Bail produced a bugle gifted to him by Ferguson in 1943, and used the instrument to play Taps one final time.

"They put the sign up," said Willette. "I called [Bail] that Monday and said that Friday night is Aug. 7; we have to do something. Right away, he said I'm going to get my lips in shape and am going to sound Taps, and he did. It all came together; it was a beautiful ceremony. His family came."

For Shaw, the ceremony was a representation of what makes the city great. She's proud to serve a community that takes pride in honoring its veterans, and hopes all of Chicopee's fallen service members receive the recognition they deserve.

"Chicopee has over 40 dedicated monuments, streets, spaces, buildings and schools [named after veterans]. Without rejuvenated efforts like this, they just sort of fall into the background and merely become things that you drive by frequently. Staying in touch with these memories and having ceremonies reminds us of the history that we tend to lose sight of," said Shaw.

Seventy-seven years after Bail last saw Ferguson, he continues to honor the man who positively impacted his life as a youth. He thanked the city for taking the necessary actions.

"At 85-years-old, I still hope his remains will be discovered. Nevertheless, I still remember his gift of a bugle, which played a large role in my life. Thank you for listening," said Bail.

Brian Willette addresses those gathered to honor Dave Ferguson, who died serving in World War II.

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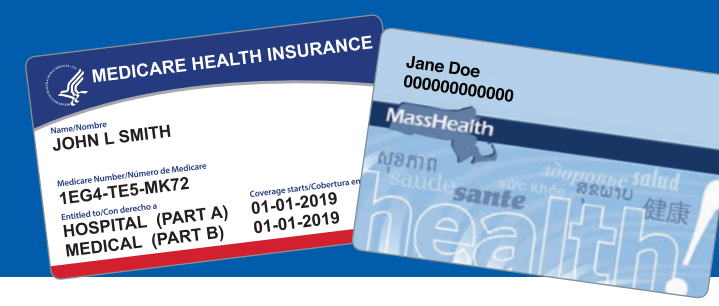


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# City scores $300,000 federal brownfields grant

**By Dalton Zbierski**
*Staff Writer*

Chicopee scored a key victory on Aug. 12 when it was awarded a $300,000 federal grant for an expanded assessment of contaminated proprieties in Willimansett.

Mayor John Vieau and U.S. Rep. Richard Neal celebrated the funding during a ceremony last Wednesday at the central maintenance garage on Meadow St.

The federal brownfield grant will prioritize the undeveloped portion of the former Spaulding manufacturing facility on Meadow Street as well as sites along the North Chicopee Street Corridor. Planning Director Lee Pouliot said momentum is building as the city strives to clean up and redevelop its brownfield sites.

"We've had documented successes both in Chicopee Center and Chicopee Falls doing this type of work; getting properties to redevelopment," he said. "The fact that we're going to be able to continue the program in Willimansett, which is really the third industrial village that started the city, is really exciting. We look forward to the next couple of years as we start the planning process."

Neal was honored to be in Chicopee for the Aug.12 ceremony. He believes strongly the city is well-suited to continue its success toward the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

"The Brownfields Program was specifically designed for places like Chicopee," said Neal. "It gives communities the funding and technical assistance to assess and safely clean up sites that may have been contaminated by previous tenants. In turn, this allows them to be revitalized and put back into action for a new use. That means more jobs, more businesses and a reinvigorated economy."

Pouliot is grateful for the EPA's repeated recognition of the city's potential. He explained establishing and redeveloping facilities such as the RiverMills Center, RiverMills Assisted Living at Chicopee Falls and the Cabotville Mills and Lyman Mills apartment complexes were made possible by brownfield grants awarded to the city over the past decade.

"The city's Brownfields Program is really a perfect example of how developing a vision and documenting a plan on how to make that vision a reality really assists with securing funding for projects. That's exactly what we've done with the brownfields project; identify a challenge or targeted site," said Pouliot.

Chicopee is not the only local community with contaminated sites. Throughout western Massachusetts, hundreds of vacant buildings and lots are all that remain of the industrial and manufacturing facilities long ago rendered obsolete by evolving industries.

Neal said he has been impressed by Chicopee's ability to repeatedly earn brownfield grants. He stressed the program is not readily available to all; only a select number of communities are able to benefit from the EPA funding as they work to clean and transform their contaminated sites.

"It is important to note that these grants are extremely competitive, and so obtaining them is a true testament to the great work that the folks on Mayor Vieau's team do. They were one of only six recipients of this funding from across the state," said Neal. "While I offer my assistance at the federal level as an advocate on behalf of all applicants from across the First Congressional District, it really is the hard-working staff that deserves the credit."

# Bus safety protocols to be instituted for students

*COVID-19 necessitates changes*

**By Dalton Zbierski**
*Staff Writer*

The Chicopee School Committee voted Aug. 12 in favor of a hybrid model, which will mean students physically return to school a couple of days a week this fall. While the district has prepared extensively to create a safe environment for students in the classroom, school bus safety has become a rising concern.

Fortunately, Chicopee is well prepared when it comes to transporting students safely to and from school. A short video recently released by ChicopeeTV, a public access television studio, highlights the safety measures that will be put in place when students hop back onboard.

First and foremost, all students will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Buses will also carry a minimal number of students in comparison to their capacities before the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the entrance of each bus, students will now be greeted by a hand-sanitizing station while all bus drivers will be required to wear masks. While the weather permits, all bus windows will remain open to ensure quality air flow and ventilation.

Furthermore, seats have been marked to indicate where students should not be seated; the precaution was made to strengthen social distancing on board. Each seat will also be numbered, which will aid the district in contact tracing and seat assignments.

Additionally, students sitting in the back of the bus will be the first to enter the vehicle. In the afternoon, students who exit the bus first will sit closest to the driver.

While siblings will be permitted to sit together, the majority of students will be assigned to their own seats this coming school year to create social distancing.

When on the bus, students are to remain seated at all times within their zone and will not be allowed to reach over or around the seats. The district hopes to limit conversations across the aisles to limit transmission spread.

In between each drop off point, drivers will be required to wipe down all of the bus' "high touch point areas." This will occur in between each school.

The district is currently combing through the state's regulations pertaining to transportation. In a recent appearance, Superintendent Lynn Clark offered valuable insight.

"We do have many students who will not be taking the bus, parents are opting to drop off. We also have about 30 percent of our parents who are opting remote only this year," said Clark.

# Parks & Recreation Department keep cemeteries maintained

*Recent storms left plenty of debris*

**By Dalton Zbierski**
*Staff Writer*

The scope of the Parks & Recreation Dept. spans well beyond athletic fields, basketball courts and spray parks. The department also oversees the maintenance and upkeep of Chicopee's three city-owned cemeteries, all of which date back centuries.

Last weekend, city employees completed a cleanup of Fairview Cemetery, located off of Abbey Memorial Drive. Originally known as the New Cemetery, the burial ground opened in 1869, and is the final resting place for members of prominent Chicopee families such as the Spauldings, the Gaylords and the Sterns.

Maintaining the historic grounds is no easy task. Parks & Recreation Superintendent Benjamin Strepka outlined the work that goes into beautifying the site.

"We're very sensitive to different religions and backgrounds," said Strepka. "We understand that it is a very sensitive area and that people go there to grieve and celebrate differently. By maintaining the cemetery, we need to protect everybody in the cemetery as well as the aesthetic of the cemetery."

Stringent regulations enable the city to preserve the location. Artificial grave ornaments, artificial flowers, enclosures of any kind and new plantings in the ground are prohibited while holiday pots and boxes are only allowed during the Memorial Day and holiday seasons.

"Because we just had that storm several weeks ago, we needed to go through and use leaf blowers," said Strepka. "When you have all those decorations, now you're blowing stuff off of the stones and all this debris around. It becomes very dangerous to people in our cemetery and to our workers and to our equipment as well."

Rules and regulations are established by the Fairview Cemetery Commission. Strepka assured residents that city employees recognize the importance of items are left at grave sites on the property.

"We do respect the way that people grieve differently and are very understanding to most things. If someone comes in to place a flower by a gravestone, we won't just pick it up right away. We'll leave it there for a couple of days, and when it does start to wilt or become unsightly, we'll clean it up," said Strepka.

While Fairview Cemetery traces its roots to the late 19th century, it remains the city's newest publicly-owned burial ground. East Street Cemetery became city property in 1825, and Maple Grove Cemetery was acquired by the city in 1836.

"Fairview differs from the other two; being an active cemetery, there's more recent burials so there's still active family coming there. Whereas, the other ones have stones that are there from the 1700s where there really aren't family members coming to them anymore; we don't really have decorations or flowers in those cemeteries," said Strepka.

As Strepka referenced, recent wind storms caused an array of tree limbs to fall, becoming scattered throughout Fairview Cemetery. The massive property demands multiple cleanups each year, and the city consistently makes an effort to inform residents of them ahead of time.

"Because we have thousands of families with loved ones buried there, it's impossible for us to send out individual notices to each individual family so we announce [developments] through a press release about a week or two ahead of time to give people some time to get up to the cemetery and clean up around there," said Strepka.

**Left, in 1895, Chicopee lawyer George Steams donated $3,000 to build the gateway at the entrance of Fairview Cemetery. The gateway was completed by renown sculptor and bronze caster, Melzar Mosman. The Parks & Recreation Department has been cleaning up the cemetery following the strong storms that blew through the area. Right, the Sarah E. Spaulding Memorial is perhaps the most impressive structure inside of Fairview Cemetery.**

*TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

**Thousands of Chicopee residents have been laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery.**

# Attorney hired to investigate Morse's conduct

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**
*gscibelli@turley.com*

HOLYOKE – As time continues to wane to the Sept. 1 state primary, the battle between Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse and U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, heated up with the start of an investigation by the University of Massachusetts.

Morse has also gone on the attack, accusing the College Democrats, who spearheaded the timing of the letter, which accusedMorse of having inappropriate sexual relationships with students at the school while he was a lecturer at UMass.

Neal's campaign has denied having any part of the "smear job" Morse is claiming. Morse believes the letter published by the Daily Collegian, a UMass publication, was done to sabotage his candidacy, and blames Neal's campaign for its release.

Morse has released a statement admitting to using dating apps to initiate sexual relationships with students, and acknowledged having such relationships with students attending UMass. Multiple times in multiple publications and forums, Morse has denied using his position of power for sexual gain. He said all his sexual relationships have been consensual and none were with students he was directly teaching.

Natashia Tidwell, a partner at Boston law firm, Saul Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr, has agreed to launch an investigation on behalf of UMass into Morse's behavior. She will likely conduct many interviews and will be searching for impropriety and Title IX violations committed by Morse.

It is not clear how long an investigation will take, but it is likely to go well behind the Sept. 1 primary. If Morse is unsuccessful in his campaign, the investigation into his contact will have more local impact in his home city of Holyoke, where councilors are calling for investigations and a couple for his resignation.

Morse said in a public statement last week that he welcomes any investigation and believes any investigation will clear him of any possible wrongdoing. He has denied violating any UMass policies.

Morse was a part-time lecturer at UMass from 2014 to 2019, teaching political studies. Morse was just 25-years-old when he was hired. UMass has announced Morse was not re-hired for the fall semester. The College Democrats of Massachusetts, which wrote the letter in the Daily Collegian, have disinvited Morse from attending their events in the future.

According to UMass, their policy does not explicitly ban romantic relationships between faculty and students. It does ban relationships between faculty and students in which the faculty member has direct involvement with that student's education experience at the university, which as being an instructor or even an advisor for an extracurricular activity.

While not banned, student-faculty relationships are "strongly discouraged."

Neal and Morse were set to meet in debates this week where the issue could come up depending on the style of debate.

# Prepare girls for kindergarten with Girl Scouts' virtual events

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER MA— Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts and Girl Scouts of the USA is launching a free "Make New Friends" virtual event series to ensure that all girls are prepared to start kindergarten with confidence.

The COVID-19 pandemic and transition to virtual learning and activities has disrupted important educational milestones, particularly for children entering kindergarten this year. Social and emotional learning is important for success in kindergarten, and as the experts on girls' leadership and development, Girl Scouts is uniquely poised to lead fun and impactful events that help girls make new friends while boosting their social skills, self-confidence, and experience in a classroom or virtual setting.

One of the largest girl-serving organizations offering social and emotional kindergarten readiness programming, Girl Scouts has designed a specialized, engaging four-part virtual event series that is free and open to all girls who are entering kindergarten. Girls will:

· practice interacting with other girls, exploring new ideas, and gaining the courage to ask questions about what they see;

· explore emotions and learn how being persistent can help them achieve their dreams;

· use their senses to process the world around them while practicing reasoning and problem-solving skills; and

· learn how to listen to a story, identify key characters, follow a plotline, and then share what they learned.

Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays, Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1; 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, Sept.14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5; 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7; 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Many in-person kindergarten readiness and pre-K programs have been cancelled or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including opportunities to meet teachers and classmates and to try out a classroom activity. Knowing that social and emotional learning and development are some of the strongest predictors of academic success and healthy relationships, Girl Scouts has designed fun activities for girls to meet these critical milestones. Events will include activities for girls to explore the solar system, create an inspiring drawing to represent their dreams and remind them to be persistent, and much more.

Interested parents should enter their zip code to sign up for GSCWM'S Make New Friends event series at www.girlscouts.org/ready.

# RiverMills Center Memorial Drive shopping trips

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging's Transportation Department continues to offer shopping trips to stores in Chicopee, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Car and van service to shopping and grocery stores on Memorial Drive will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The vehicles will be making stops at Big Y, Stop & Shop, Price Rite, Job Lot, Wal-Mart and Chicopee Plaza. There is a suggested donation of $2. For a reservation, please call 413-536-5733.

In addition, the transportation department provides rides for medical, dental, legal and hairdresser, pharmacy pick-ups and banking.They are offered Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., to Chicopee's older adults.

A $10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.

# MassDevelopment announces $310,000 for real estate technical assistance

BOSTON – MassDevelopment is pleased to announce the availability of up to $310,000 in funding through its Real Estate Technical Assistance program. Through a combination of in-house expertise and contracts with consultants, under this program MassDevelopment works with municipal officials, planners, local stakeholders, and others to address site-specific and district-wide economic development challenges. Awards will range from approximately $5,000 to $50,000 and can support a range of projects, from feasibility studies to master planning efforts.

"Through MassDevelopment's Real Estate Technical Assistance program, we deploy our in-house expertise and partnerships with top consultants to help cities and towns across the Commonwealth tackle their planning and development projects," said MassDevelopment president and CEO Lauren Liss. "We encourage our local partners to apply for this targeted assistance as they pursue plans to leverage assets, build housing, create jobs, and more."

The full Request for Proposals is available at massdevelopment.com/technicalassistance. Responses are due by Sept. 4.

Created in 2017, MassDevelopment's Real Estate Technical Assistance program has awarded $942,000 to help 26 communities advance their economic development goals through 27 projects.

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities to stimulate economic growth. During fiscal 2019, MassDevelopment financed or managed 316 projects generating investment of more than $2 billion in the Massachusetts economy.

These projects are estimated to create or support 9,743 jobs and build or preserve 1,992 housing units.

# Grants for nonprofits financially impacted by COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts has announced its next stage of its COVID-19 response effort in the Pioneer Valley, launching stabilization grants for nonprofits that have been financially impacted by the pandemic. With these new stabilization grants, the Foundation is also committing to a multi-year approach to focus on the resilience, re-envisioning and rebuilding of nonprofits in the region.

Applications are currently being accepted, and the deadline for applications is Sept.1. Maximum grant awards will be $50,000 and will provide for up to six months of operation.

Organizations with various missions and target populations will be eligible to apply for Stabilization Grants, though organizations that serve the most vulnerable populations in the region, work to advance equity and opportunity and have deep roots in the community will be prioritized.

In the coming months, CFWM will provide workshops and trainings to assist nonprofits as they evolve to remain active and viable during and post COVID-19.

The Foundation will also commit a portion of funding to support organizations whose missions align with the CFWM's strategic priorities for the coming years: A strong start for all children through high-quality early education and care; accessible and more affordable post-secondary education and training, providing pathways to completion and employment; and a vibrant local arts and creativity ecosystem to support self-expression, economic vitality, and connection.

The grants serve as a next phase to CFWM's COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, which to date has awarded more than $6 million in grants to nonprofits in Western Massachusetts that are on the front lines of serving vulnerable populations affected by the crisis.

To learn more about CFWM's Stabilization Grants and to apply, visit http://communityfoundation.org/covid-funding-application/.

# Virtual walk to help NAMI on Sunday, Aug. 23

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 20th Annual Walkathon Virtual Celebration, 'A Journey of Hope and Recovery on Aug. 23, starting at 11 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can Build Better Lives.

Folks may help NAMI-WM's mission by participating in this Virtual Walk or by sponsoring the event.

For further information, contact NAMI's office at 413-786-9139 or visit www.namiwm.org/events for entry and sponsorship forms.

# Chicopee resident to participate in Jimmy Fund "Walk Your Way"

CHICOPEE – One Chicopee resident chose their own route on Oct. 4 for the annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Participants are encouraged to walk wherever they choose: around their neighborhood, a local hiking trail, a treadmill or anywhere else they are comfortable.

Chicopee resident John Beaulieu, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in virtual programming during the Walk, which aims to recreate the most inspiring elements of Walk day. While the event will not physically bring walkers together along the famed Boston Marathon course, it will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event has raised more than $145 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in its 30+ year history.

"While we can't see everyone in person this year, we are excited for the virtual programing which will give participants the opportunity to support breakthroughs in cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute," said Zack Blackburn, director of the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. "Together, from a safe distance, we will take critical strides in the journey to conquer cancer."

This year's event will have a lower fundraising requirement ($100 for adults and $25 for those 12-years- old and younger) and everyone will pay just a $5 registration fee. Each walker who registers will receive a bib and medal, and the first 5,000 walkers to register will receive a commemorative Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Anyone interested in additional information can reference the Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way frequently asked questions or can send an email to JimmyFundWalk@DFCI.Harvard.edu. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor since 2002.

To register to walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. The Jimmy Fund Walk App in Charity Miles can also be downloaded. The app will allow people to track the miles they walk leading up to, and on Walk day, create a team and walk with their friends, family, and teammates, share their miles and activities via social media to boost fundraising, and see important Walk day news, content, training and fundraising challenges.

The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Its mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement and advocacy. It provides the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world, offering more than 1,100 clinical trials.

# Byrnes graduates from RIT

ROCHESTER, New York – Patrick Byrnes, of Chicopee, Massachusetts, graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering. Some 4,000 degrees were conferred in the 2019-2020 academic year at all of RIT's campuses. A virtual celebration was held May 8 at rit.edu/classof2020.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

The university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leadership in business, computing, engineering, imaging science, liberal arts, sustainability and fine and applied arts. RIT also offers unparalleled support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation. Global partnerships include campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

SOME THINGS NEVER GET OLD

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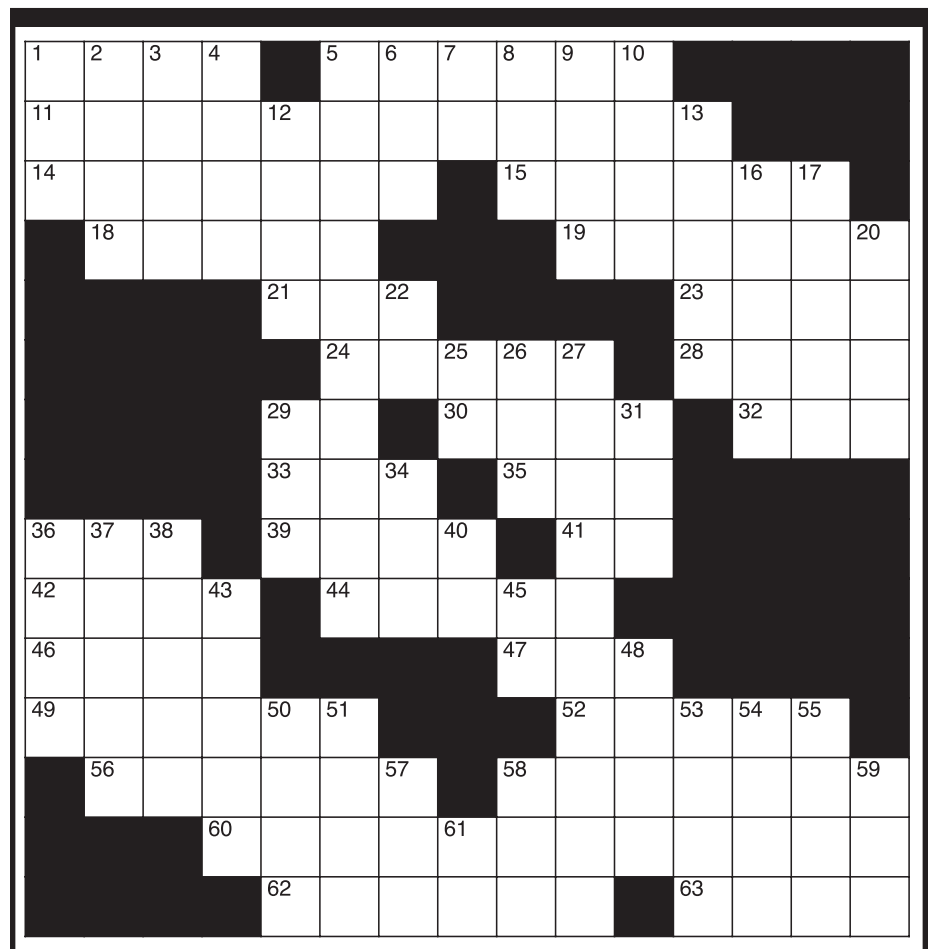


**CLUES ACROSS**
1. Popular musical awards show
5. Speech in one's honor
11. A state of poor nutrition
14. Not ingested
15. More lacking in taste
18. "Popeye" cartoonist
19. Helps to reduce speed
21. January 1 greeting (abbr.)
23. Georgian currency
24. Proverb expressing a truth
28. Jewish calendar month
29. Volume measurement
30. Fair-skinned
32. Patti Hearst's captors
33. Have already done
35. Touch lightly
36. Autonomic nervous system
39. Plant part
41. College degree
42. Military alliance
44. Tokyo's former name
46. Carpenter's tool
47. Before
49. Consent to receive
52. Passages
56. The Duke of Edinburgh
58. Utter repeatedly
60. Linked together in a chain
62. Quality that evokes pity
63. Maintained possession of

**CLUES DOWN**
1. U.S. military school
2. Controls
3. Away from wind
4. Grab quickly
5. Being everlasting
6. Vase
7. Atomic #3
8. Type of medication
9. Encircle with a belt
10. Belonging to you
12. American state
13. City in Zambia
16. Good Gosh!
17. Of the country
20. Helsinki district
22. 36 inches
25. Reporters' group
26. The voice of Olaf
27. Explains in detail
29. Tooth caregiver
31. One point south of due east
34. Scottish river
36. Elsa's sister
37. Civil Rights group
38. Line of poetry
40. Doctor
43. Fatty acid
45. Avatar (abbr.)
48. Awe-inspiring garden
50. Fall down
51. Rock icon Turner
53. Asian country (alt. sp.)
54. UK museum network
55. Stairs have at least one
57. Part of (abbr.)
58. Simpson trial judge
59. Sun up in New York
61. Exclamation of surprise

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 13

EDITORIAL

# In hard times, we are here

People have lived in isolation, and many of our favorite places and favorite activities were forced to shutter or have been severely restricted access.

Something as simple as a trip to the store is a chore. You have to have a plan, you have to wear a mask, and you're encouraged to go alone, leaving children at home. You're also encouraged to go as quickly as possible, limit contact, and go the right way down the one-way aisles.

That's just one example of how life has changed for the average person.

Like many of you reading, I have watched how our town functions, through Zoom meetings and remote participation in town government, limited access to areas of town we pay taxes to be able to access, like our Town Hall. It's not fun.

But slowly, the town has continued to open up, and if you read this week's edition, which has been mailed for free to all of you, you will see some light starting to emerge.

Soccer may return, and fall sports could be on the cusp of happening. The city council will be getting more active, and hopefully, children will be able to return to school.

Our hope and prayer worldwide is that a vaccine for the coronavirus will become available sooner, rather than later, and restaurants will be able to return to full capacity, activities will restart, sports will return to active competition, and we get do the simple things, like give our friends a hug.

In the meantime, I encourage you to stay strong as we at the Chicopee Register try to be. We are limited with staffing, but that's where you all come in.

Please contact us. Tell us your coronavirus stories, whether it be about your struggles with home schooling, your feelings about how the town is handling the pandemic, what you think of the plan to open school, and how the governor's ruling affects you right here.

Also, if you have questions, have things you want to know more about while you have limited access, contact us. We'll research and help find your answers.

We are still here. And we will strive to bring you everything you want, and everything you need. In order to do that, we welcome your feedback and your story ideas now more than ever. Please contact us at chicopeeregister@turley.com.

Thank you, stay safe and healthy this coming fall.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

***Send letters to: The Chicopee Register,***
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
*The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Reaffirms support for Alex Morse

The Massachusetts Primary is just two weeks away and a very important election is on the ballot, namely the race between Alex Morse and Richard Neal. The winner will represent the First Massachusetts Congressional District.

I am writing as a co-coordinator of the group, Grassroots Central Mass, and as an organization we stand by our endorsement of Alex Morse. Our support is based upon his positions on important issues such as: access to health care, mental health awareness and treatment, environmental justice, and job security. We believe Alex Morse will work much more effectively to further our interests than the current representative for MA District 1, Richard Neal.

At this moment, unsubstantiated allegations against Morse have been brought forward by some members of the College Democrats of Massachusetts (CDMA), but at the same time grave concerns exist about the timing of the release of the student comments and their possible use of inappropriate political connections to create their statement. Until impartial investigations clarify this situation, we remain firmly committed to the candidacy of Alex Morse.

We believe deep harm has been done to members of the LGBTQ+ community due to this situation. Such harm must be addressed, therefore Grassroots Central Mass wishes to strongly reaffirm our commitment to inclusiveness, justice, human rights, gender equity and respect for all.

**Regina Edmonds,**
*co-coordinator of Grassroots Central Mass, Warren*

# Urges vote for Joe Kennedy III

Our cable, phone, and internet bills seem to be more expensive every time we open the mailbox. Luckily, we know why, and we have a leader ready to fight for change.

Back in 1996, while serving his 11th term in Congress, Ed Markey wrote the Telecommunications Act that deregulated the telecom industry. The bill, in effect, allowed big corporations to build monopolies for cable, internet, and television - raising everyone's prices and eliminating competition.

In Chicopee, we know first-hand how big corporate monopolies like Charter Spectrum do business, and it's the same for Comcast, Verizon and all the others. They force people to pay ridiculous prices in exchange for poor service because they know consumers have no other options. And when a town like ours has the audacity to create our own municipal internet utility to compete with them and give our residents better service, they use their record-high corporate profits to hire lobbyists that spread lies to try to stop us. Ed Markey's Telecom law helped lead to this system.

For many seniors and low-income families, this has meant more and more of their fixed income goes to big telecom companies. Thankfully, we have a new voice who understands this and is committed to standing up for people against big telecom, Joe Kennedy.

Joe has come to Chicopee many times and I've had the chance to discuss these issues with him personally. He's a leader who shows up and listens. He will fight against corporate monopolies and advocate for resources for us to expand our municipal broadband system.

It's time for change; it's time to send Joe Kennedy III to the U.S. Senate.

**Joel McAuliffe**
*Chicopee City Councilor representative of Ward 1*

GUEST COLUMN

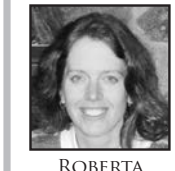
# Tender herbs need not disappear with the first frost

As we approach Labor Day, my mind drifts back to an article I read as a teenager, long before I was ever the Garden Lady. It talked about extending the life of tender herbs, plants like rosemary, scented geraniums, fruity sages and the like that don't survive a New England winter. Up until that point, I would dig these plants up before the first hard frost and try overwintering them in my house. Not an easy feat when living in a well-insulated ranch style home. We did OK, even managing to keep a rosemary alive for several years in a row, but there was a better, more space-conscious way to save these plants from Jack Frost. Simply take a cutting!

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success. First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the

See GARDEN page 7

IN THE GARDEN



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

*The Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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# Everyone must work together as schools open

**By Thomas Scott and Robert N. Baldwin**
*Guest columnists*

Across the commonwealth, school districts are beginning to announce their plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Some communities are choosing not to reopen school buildings, opting instead for full distance learning for all students. Other communities are moving forward with a "hybrid" model, in which some groups of students alternate between in-person learning and distance learning, in order to ensure physical distancing in schools.

Neither of these approaches is being met with universal acclaim. Superintendents and School Committees find themselves caught between the impassioned viewpoints of two opposing camps. They are hearing from parents who advocate for at least some return to in-person schooling, in part because of fears about the long-term effects of students being out of school, without the supports and interactions they need to thrive. They're also hearing from constituents, including many teachers' union leaders, who insist that school buildings should remain closed altogether to protect students and staff and to prevent the spread of the virus.

Many of the 275 members of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents were eager and hopeful to have their School Committee approve a hybrid model. Especially in communities where the COVID-19 infection rate is low, many superintendents are confident that schools can make the necessary adjustments to resume in-person instruction while protecting the health and safety of students and staff. These district leaders have worked diligently with local task forces throughout the spring and summer to craft reopening plans that adhere to state guidelines and "follow the science." While so many other states across the country cannot even consider reopening schools as the infection rate continues to

See TOGETHER page 15

GARDEN from page 6

"stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting. A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season, but keep in mind that the closer it gets to frost, the more difficult it will be to get it to root. Like us, the plant is preparing for winter so act soon!

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material. Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones is in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node. Terminal cuttings from the growth tip, which are three to four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant.These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go. Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem. Sand, perlite and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Take only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting. If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur, a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container. I have found that "less is more" when using these products.

When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first; do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location. The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting. Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary and lavender may take six weeks or more. Sweet bay is even slower; it should be rooted within six months.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. With some luck and good cultural practices through the winter months you will likely have a garden-ready replacement for your favorite tender herbs come springtime.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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# MassDOT develops new mobility dashboard

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is announcing the release of the new MassDOT Mobility Dashboard. This dashboard is another resource for members of the public to visualize, analyze and monitor data collected by MassDOT to better understand the effects of COVID-19 on the commonwealth's transportation network.

MassDOT is continually monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 on roadways, transit services, and Registry transactions. The dashboard is an interactive roundup of key indicators that primarily reflect how much people are traveling, how they are getting around, and where they are going throughout the commonwealth. This data is updated weekly, with the date of the last update displayed prominently at the top of the page.

"This dashboard is just one of the ways that MassDOT is compiling and monitoring transportation data," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "Having one central location to access and analyze the impacts of COVID-19 increases public accessibility."

While MassDOT is not the only state transportation agency in the U.S. that has developed COVID-19- related mobility dashboards, the MassDOT Mobility Dashboard succinctly organizes a variety of multi-modal data about movement in the commonwealth that covers a wide range of topics all in one place. Topics include traffic volumes, transit revenue, safety and more. The dashboard is a valuable resource for all stakeholders and enthusiasts of Massachusetts' transportation network.


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# Sports

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# New guidance from state would allow fall sports

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**
*gscibelli@turley.com*

REGION – With new guidance out from the state and several of its agencies, it appears there will be an avenue to play high school sports this fall, though a number of them may not be in the form people will be used to.

And "people" may not be allowed to watch them.

Last week, more guidance was issued involving the return to school for students, with Gov. Charlie Baker putting out a new map that uses a traffic signal system to deem certain communities at low, moderate, or higher risk for coronavirus positive test rates.

Baker further recommended that the majority of communities, which are in either the green or alternate white category with almost no positive tests in the past two weeks, should return to school full time.

Only two Western Mass. communities were labeled as "high-risk" in Granby and Holyoke. It is not known if Baker and state health officials or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will use the map to exclude school districts in high-risk communities from being able to play.

Meanwhile, the MIAA's COVID-19 Task Force, the Sports Medicine Committee, and other agencies are working with the state to make modifications to certain sports in order to be able to have contests this fall.

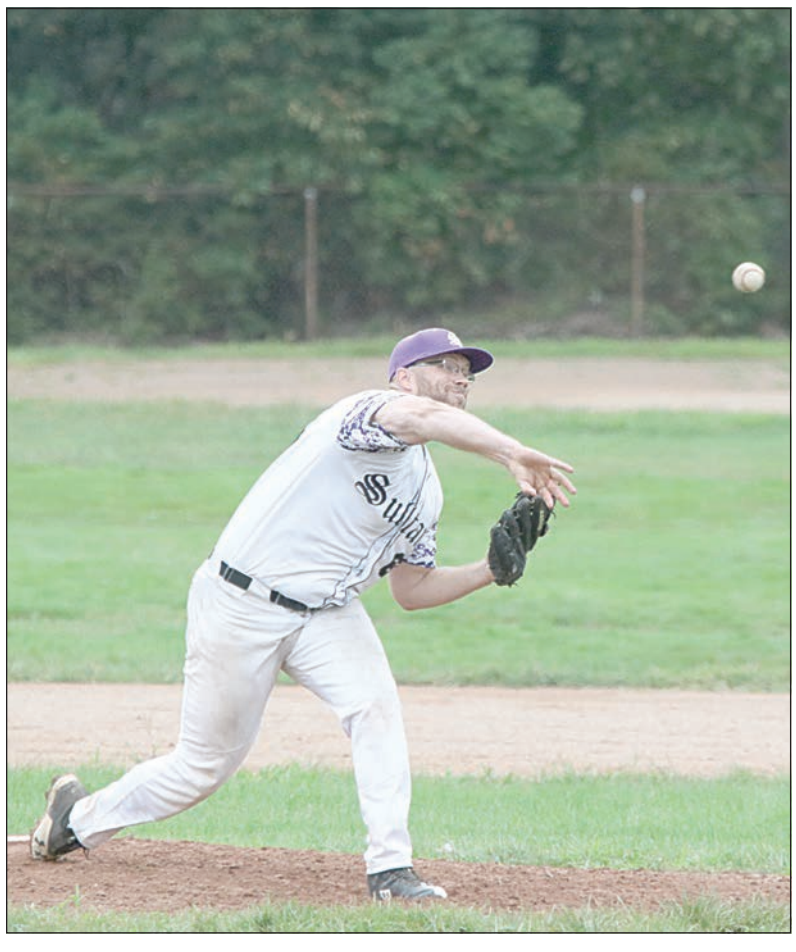
Among the sports that are likely to be played are field hockey, cross country, golf, and girls volleyball.

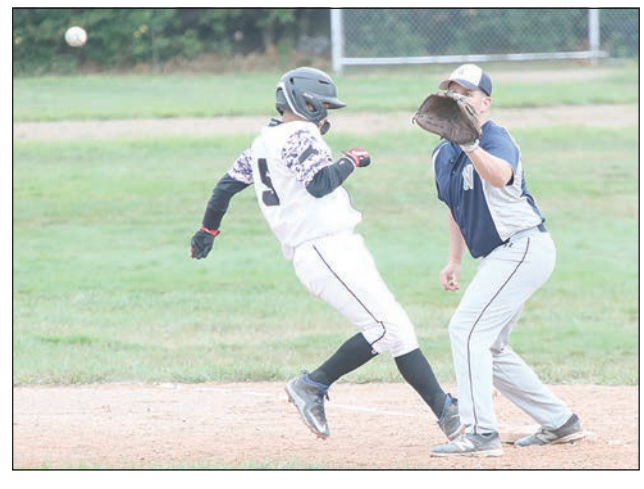
The sports will have to be played with various social distancing and mask requirements, such as for coaches, officials, and players on the bench. There will also be contact restrictions and other modifications these sports will have to adopt in order to have contests. The exact modifications will be determined in the next few weeks.

One thing that will not happen is the return of sports before

See SPORTS page 11

## Baseball action





The Western Mass. Wood Bat League, an age 25-and-over league that typically plays from April through August followed by fall league in September and October, was able to start playing in early July and has remained in action since the beginning of Phase 3. Last Sunday morning, the Sultans and Wildcats played a close game at Whitney Park in Ludlow, with the Wildcats prevailing 4-3. Players in the league come from all over the Western Mass. region.

*PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI*

# Rameau picks up big Tri Track win

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Sam Rameau used a pass of Ron Silk in the second half of Saturday's Tri Track Open Modified Series race at Monadnock Speedway to seal the deal.

The Westminster, Massachusetts, native earned his first career Tri Track win in thrilling fashion, holding off some of the country's best Modified talent over the final stretch of the third race of the season.

Rameau pocketed a $6,000 check with the victory as part of a lucrative purse that was over $40,000. It was the second stop of the season at the Winchester, New Hampshire, oval for Tri Track.

"We put a lot of work into this," Rameau said. "A lot of people don't know that its my full-time job to prepare these race cars. I put my heart and soul into this. The emotions are high."

The final corner was nearly a repeat of the July 5 Tri Track race at Monadnock. While Rameau took the top spot from Silk on lap 72, and looked to be driving off to victory, a caution flag with just four laps to go doubled the field back up. Rameau spun his tires on the restart, but got away, before another quick caution stopped the action.

Although Rameau hit the final restart perfectly, he couldn't quite get away from Ronnie Williams.

See TRACK page 11

# Soccer moved to 'moderate risk'

*With the change, soccer could be played this fall with modifications*

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**
*gscibelli@turley.com*

REGION – At the beginning of the summer, soccer, basketball, football, and lacrosse were deemed "high-risk" sports.

These determinations were made at the beginning of July, when Phase 3 of Gov. Charlie Baker's re-opening plan started.

The designation banned any type of contests from being played, an only allowed for non-contact, socially distant workouts.

Now, soccer has been quietly moved to the "moderate risk" category, paving the way for games in one of the most popular sports in the region to be played.

Last year, Western Massachusetts was well-represented in the state finals, with Westfield, South Hadley, Belchertown all being represented. South Hadley girls, and Belchertown boys soccer both were state champions and were looking forward to defending those titles this fall before the pandemic stopped sports from being played.

Because of the original Phase 3 determinations, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was unable to play games, eliminating any chance for area high schoolers to prepare for the fall season. However, if the MIAA makes a determination for what sports will play and when, it could open the door for captains practices to take place provided the players follow the rules.

This fall was supposed to be the final Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the MIAA before the system goes to a statewide tournament.

A proposal for a Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the PVIAC has been placed on the back burner until the pandemic is over.

The state was scheduled to make public some of the guidance for return to play for soccer this week. The MIAA's COVID-19 Task Force, Tournament Management Committee, and Sports Medicine Committees will all make recommendations to the MIAA Board of Directors on the best way to proceed for soccer once all the guidance has been issued and has an opportunity to be evaluated for feasibility.

With the current timeline in place, it is likely the soccer season, typically 16-18 games in Western Massachusetts, will be reduced to 10-12 games and could be limited to certain geographic areas to limit travel.

# Owl Tournament raises funds for WSU sports program

WESTFIELD – The 14th Annual Owl Club Golf Tournament brought together Westfield State athletics alumni, parents, coaches and sponsors for a day of fundraising and fun at the Ranch Golf Club on Monday, Aug. 3.

Westfield Bank served as the lead sponsor of the event, joined by Whalley Computer Associates, Barnes and Noble College Bookstores, and Real Dry Waterproofing.

A group that included football alumni Wayne McGillicuddy, Eric Washburn, Dan Letteriello and friend Corey Nevins won the tournament with a 13-under par 59. The group eagled the first hole after McGillicuddy hit an approach shot two inches from the cup, and never looked back en route to the standout round of the day.

Women's lacrosse coach Jeff Pechulis' group took second with a score of 60, partnering with Peter Clark, and lacrosse parents Paul Barrett and Sean Gearin. They won a match of cards with a group featuring alumni Jack Mosko, Matt Barry and Richard Joseph.

Current Owls' baseball player Sean Moorhouse topped the men's long drive competition on 16, and Katie Sylvain won the women's long drive. Don Cretella and Jack Sheerin won the closest to the pin contests.

A total of 22 groups and 88 players registered for the event, which was held in a slightly different format in order to make concessions to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"We moved to a tee-time format to avoid a big crowd at registration, so that the players streamed through in 1's and 2's, and many of the players took advantage of our online registration, which helped to limit contact and cash handling at the event itself," said Dave Caspole, Associate Director of Athletics. "Each player had an individual cart, all the staff and players wore masks at registration, and we served lunch on the course so that we could avoid having a crowd in any one area. The staff at the Ranch did a great job in helping us set up safe protocols that still let our players come out and enjoy a great day on the course."

"It was great to have a chance to see so many alumni and friends come out to support Owls' athletics," said Caspole. "We will total about $14,000 raised to support our varsity athletic teams today, which is great considering we had to reduce the field due to the pandemic, and some of our regular participants were not able to travel this year, but we look forward to having a full field again next year if we are back to a more normal mode of operations."

# Paik wins Massachusetts Amateur Golf Championship

ESSEX – Allison Paik, 18, of Ledgemont Country Club, has defeated Anne Walsh, 18, of The Country Club, by a score of 7&6 to win the 117th Massachusetts Amateur Championship following Friday's 18-hole Championship Match at Essex County Club in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. It's the largest margin of victory in the Championship Match in the past decade.

Both players have committed to playing for Columbia University's women's golf team.

This is the first Women's Amateur Championship win for Paik, a Sharon resident who graduated Wheeler School in Providence. Paik never had to play all 18 holes in her four match play contests. She played a combined 56 holes in those matches, winning 25 of them.

Walsh, of Jamaica Plain, finished runner-up for the second consecutive year. Last year, she lost to Angela Garvin in the Championship Match, 4&3. This year, she won Mass Golf's Ouimet Memorial Tournament champion and finished runner-up at the Massachusetts Girls' Junior Amateur Championship.

In Semifinal matches this morning, Walsh defeated Rebecca Skoler (Pine Brook Country Club) in 21 holes, and Paik defeated Mary Mulcahy (Hatherly Country Club), 4&3.

Match Summary: Allison Paik put on a stellar putting performance as she won five holes with five birdies on the front nine, including three of the first four holes. She needed to play just three more holes to close out the match. On the 12th hole, Walsh overshot the green and missed her par attempt. That allowed Paik to chip on and then make her par putt.

President's Cup: Alexandra Pool (Pine Brook Country Club) won the President's Cup for the first time. Pool, 15, a Boston native, defeated Wellesley's Pam Kuong (Charles River Country Club), 2&1, closing the match out with a par on the 17th hole. Kuong, 59, won the 2019 Mass Golf Anne Marie Tobin Women's Player of the Year Award.

The President's Cup consisted of players who finished 17-32 in stroke play qualifying, which took place Tuesday and Wednesday. The Championship Flight featured players seeded 1-16.

LES CAIN
EDDIE SMITH
FRANK WARD
LES BERRY
JIMMY MORAN
BILLY STON
BOB PEART
ALVIN WATSO
DOORS OPEN 6-15.
COMMENCE 7P.M.
RINGSIDE & STAGE (Reserved) 7/6
OTHERS 6/ &
"I'm social distancing, and I still get to hit the gym."
My community makes it possible.
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loomiscommunities.org

# Baseball clinics to take place in August

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net.

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher's gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic.

Potential Baseball Clinics Schedule

All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field

Free of charge for Holyoke residents, $10 for non-residents

**Wednesday, August 12**
10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
**Wednesday, August 12**
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
**Thursday, August 13**
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)
**Monday, August 17**
10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
**Wednesday, August 19**
10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 11-13)
**Wednesday, August 19**
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
**Thursday, August 20**
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)
**Wednesday, August 26**
10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 14-17)
**Wednesday, August 26**
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Prattico, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Prattico, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session.

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# IN THE CITY

## Volunteers invited to get dirty for cleaner rivers

GREENFIELD – Registration is now open for the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup. This annual event, now in its 24th year, has grown into one of the largest river cleanups in the country. CRC invites volunteers to safely continue the tradition of getting dirty for cleaner rivers in September. For more information, event safety guidelines, or to register for the Cleanup visit www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

"The Source to Sea Cleanup strengthens community while cleaning up our rivers and streams. It's an opportunity for you to make a difference," says CRC Executive Director Andrew Fisk. "When people help clean their rivers, they make lasting connections with each other and with their rivers." The annual Source to Sea Cleanup is a river cleanup coordinated by CRC in all four states of the 410-mile Connecticut River basin in New Hampshire, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut).

This year's cleanup continues throughout September, rather than the typical two-day event, for better social distancing of volunteers.

"We're excited to work with volunteers to tackle trash, even during the pandemic. We've redesigned the event to keep everyone as safe as possible while still making a difference for cleaner rivers," said CRC Cleanup Coordinator, Stacey Lennard.

Each fall, thousands of volunteers of all ages and abilities clean the Connecticut River and its tributaries on foot or by boat. Volunteers remove trash along rivers, streams, parks, boat launches, trails and more. In 2019, more than 3,600 volunteers hauled nearly 67 tons of trash from riverbanks and waterways across four river states. Volunteers remove everything from recyclable bottles and cans, fishing equipment and food waste to tires, televisions, and refrigerators.

To date, volunteers have removed more than 1,167 tons of trash from our rivers.

"There are lots of ways to get involved," said Lennard. "Volunteers can report a trash site in need of cleaning, organize and register your own local cleanup group, or be a #RiverWitness on social media. Join us to celebrate our collective efforts - together yet apart - at a virtual Source to Sea Shindig on September 30 to wrap up the cleanup."

New this year, CRC added #RiverWitness to help people connect with each other online through their shared concern for and appreciation of our rivers. Take a photo or video when you are at the river, participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup or enjoying time outside. Or make art inspired by river beauty or river pollution. Share on social media, include #RiverWitness and tag Connecticut River Conservancy. If you're not on social media, share images on CRC's website: www.ctriver.org/riverwitness. Your images will be added to an online mosaic photo display and video. Select images will be used to call on decision-makers to enact trash solutions to keep trash out of our rivers.

If your group wants to get involved but needs a cleanup site, if you have questions, or if you know of a trash site in need of cleaning, contact CRC's Cleanup Coordinator Stacey Lennard at cleanup@ctriver.org. Learn more about the event at www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. They collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. They bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your rivers and streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies. To learn more about CRC, or to make a contribution to help protect your rivers, visit www.ctriver.org.

## Don't litter: Cigarette butts are dangerous to wildlife

REGION – Everyone should keep an eye out for the side panels of local municipal trucks to see a large new message for Pioneer Valley residents: Put your butt in the trash.

Members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee—a coalition of 19 municipalities plus UMass Amherst—have said that cigarette butts are among the most littered items. They should know. Many members are responsible for overseeing street and storm drain cleaning in municipalities across the Pioneer Valley.

The new message is part of an awareness campaign that makes use of an image caught by Florida Audubon member Karen Mason, showing a baby bird with a cigarette butt in its mouth. Mason captured several images that show the mother bird feeding the cigarette butt to its baby. Audubon officials have noted that the photos provide proof for what scientists have long suspected—that wild birds mistake the pervasive and harmful litter for food.

Connecticut River Stormwater Committee members are hoping that smokers throughout the Pioneer Valley take notice and realize that it is not acceptable to throw a cigarette butt on the ground. Littered cigarette butts typically wash with the next rainfall into storm drains, through pipes, and out to nearby rivers, streams and lakes. In local waters, cigarette butts can be highly toxic to fish and other animals.

A single butt can contaminate between 500 and 1,000 liters of water with compounds like nicotine and heavy metals, which can be devastating to fish populations. Even worse, the filter is made of a non-biodegradable form of plastic called cellulose acetate, which deteriorates and disperses as plastic microfibers.

Stacey Lennard, of the Connecticut River Conservancy, observes that cigarette butts and e-cigarette waste are a huge problem. That's why the Source to Sea Clean Up will track actual numbers, starting with this September's clean up event.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staffer Patty Gambarini, who helps facilitate the work of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, said, "So much of this environmental damage can be avoided with one simple change: after enjoying a smoke, rather than flicking it onto the ground, it's important to extinguish the butt entirely and then dispose of it properly in the trash."

To learn more about stormwater and the Connecticut River, go online to www.thinkblueconnecticutriver.org.

# SPORTS

**TRACK** from page 9

Williams, the two-time and defending SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway, drove deep into turn three, slammed the back of the No. 06 Central Mass Tree machine of Rameau, and lost control. Williams would spin as the car dropped fluid, while the rest of the field rushed to find a way around. Some made it, some didn't.

Monadnock Speedway NHSTRA Modified regular Brian Robie escaped the final corner carnage to finish second, while Matt Hirschman, a winner at Star Speedway on July 25, finished third. Woody Pitkat drove the Stan Mertz prepared No. 6 to a fourth-place finish, with Anthony Nocella finishing the top-five. Matthew Kimball was sixth, followed by Craig Lutz, Ron Silk, Carl Medeiros Jr. and Austin Kochenash.

Thirty-one cars attempted to qualify for the Monadnock 100, with 26 of them taking the green flag in the feature. Austin Kochenash, Brian Robie, Matt Hirschman and Kirk Alexander picked up an extra $300 each for winning heat races part of the Pepsi Challenge. Woody Pitkat would collect the Hard Charger award courtesy of Green Construction, a $500 bonus.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series returns to the track on Saturday, October 24, with the series debut at Stafford Motor Speedway in Connecticut. The announcement of the Stafford event was made on Saturday in the drivers meeting. The Stafford Springs Modified Classic will round out the 2020 slate for Tri Track.

For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit tritrackmodifieds.com and follow the series on social media.

RESULTS: Tri Track Open Modified Series; Monadnock Speedway; August 15, 2020:

1. Sam Rameau
2. Brian Robie
3. Matt Hirschman
4. Woody Pitkat
5. Anthony Nocella
6. Matt Kimball
7. Craig Lutz
8. Ron Silk
9. Carl Medeiros Jr.
10. Austin Kochenash
11. Les Hinckley
12. Matt Swanson
13. Tommy Barrett
14. Ronnie Williams
15. Richard Savary
16. Kirk Alexander
17. Dave Sapienza
18. Cameron Sontag
19. TJ Bleau
20. Derek Robbie
21. Calvin Carroll
22. Ben Byrne
23. Ryan Doucette
24. Chase Dowling
25. Chris Pasteryak
26. Anthony Sesely
27. Kurt Vigeant

Brian Robie placed second in the Tri Track race last weekend at Monadnock Speedway.
*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

**SPORTS** from page 9

students return to school, in whatever form that is.

The MIAA will vote on a recommendation from the Sports Medicine Committee not to start practices until school has started.

"We determined that it did not really make sense to have extracurricular activities before getting the kids back in school," said one committee member.

As of now, Sept. 16 is a date that has been floated around for a start to practices. This could still put the start of contests around Oct. 1. Teams would likely play a modified season with fewer games, something that was going to be attempted with spring sports before the governor shut down schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

One sport that may not be played, however, is football.

Because of the amount of close contact, many modifications to the game have been recommended, including no tackling or otherwise any contact. It is essentially being suggested that Massachusetts schools play touch-only football this fall.

The MIAA is considering a number of possibilities, including deferring the season to a point in the year where it could be played with fewer restrictions.

All of the committees will be meeting in the near future to discuss the most recent guidance from the state.

# About the virtues of claiming benefits early

**By Russell Gloor**
*Guest columnist*

**SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS**

Dear Rusty: It seems like we are always encouraged to wait until our full retirement age or age 70 to claim our Social Security. For me, benefits at age 62 were a good jump start to my retirement. How about listing the many benefits to early (age 62) retirement? And at what age does it become a liability, if ever? Signed: Happily retired at age 78

Dear Happily Retired: You're correct that most financial advisors and Social Security advisors, including me, frequently encourage people to delay claiming Social Security until at least their full retirement age (FRA). And that's because far too many claim their benefits as soon as they are available at age 62 "because it's there," without evaluating whether that's a smart move for them personally. There are many reasons why it's best to wait, but there are also some very good reasons for claiming benefits at age 62. Let's explore those.

Claiming at age 62 is exactly the right move if you are in poor health and don't expect to live a long life. Benefits taken age 62 are 25% less for those with a full retirement age (FRA) of 66, and 30% less if your FRA is 67. But those reductions become insignificant if you don't expect to live a long, healthy life from that point forward. If you wait until your FRA, it takes about 12 years to collect the same amount in total benefits as if you had claimed at age 62.

Even if you are in decent health now, if your family history and your lifestyle suggest less than average longevity, claiming before your FRA, as early as 62, may be a prudent choice. By "lifestyle" I mean, for example, whether you exercise regularly, smoke or drink excessively or drive without a seatbelt. There are several life expectancy calculators available which can assist with predicting your life expectancy by evaluating your family history and lifestyle, including those available at this website: https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/. Just remember that no one can accurately forecast how long they will live but making an informed decision on when to claim should consider your estimated longevity, among other things.

If collecting your Social Security benefits early is needed to help pay for life's necessities, such as food, housing, and out-of-pocket medical costs, then claiming as early as age 62, or any other time before your FRA, could be exactly the right choice. In other words, the need for the money now is a driving force in deciding when to claim.

Which brings me to your point that claiming at age 62 was a "jump start" to your retirement, allowing you to begin enjoying your golden years much earlier than you might have otherwise been able to. There's a lot to be said for taking benefits early to fulfill your bucket list while you're still young enough to enjoy it. And, from your signature, it looks like you've been putting that extra Social Security money to good use for many years now. Good for you! Now, at age 78, you've reached your "breakeven point" where, if you had waited until your FRA to claim, your cumulative lifetime benefits would hereafter be more than they will be because you claimed at 62. That may not, however, offset the many years of happy retirement you've been able to enjoy because you took your benefits early.

In the end, deciding when to claim Social Security should be done after carefully evaluating your personal situation. Anyone who claims benefits before their full retirement age must beware of Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before your benefits are affected. But those who can afford to wait and who expect to live to a ripe old age would do well to consider delaying until their full retirement age, or even beyond, to claim their Social Security benefits. If their life expectancy is at least "average" they'll collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by doing so.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website at amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

# The faith we place in our elections

**By Lee H. Hamilton**
*Guest columnist*

I've lost track of the times over the years I've heard a politician say, "This is the most important election of my lifetime." In fact, I've said it myself. And I'm sure we all believed it at the time. But in my case, at least, I know I was wrong in the past. Because this year's election is the most important of my lifetime.

Elections are the crown jewel of a representative democracy. We do at least three things when we vote. First, and most obviously, we vote for our preferred candidates. Second, by doing so we vote to direct policy and to give the party we favor more control over the levers of power. Third, and possibly most important, by voting we place our stamp of approval on the system—we participate in it, reinforce it, and trust it to carry our voice. Then, whatever the result, we accept it.

This is actually one of the remarkable things about the American political system—the degree to which Americans over the centuries have placed their faith in election results, win or lose. Occasionally there are charges of voter fraud, but overwhelmingly we accept the results and express confidence in the fairness, transparency and integrity of the election process. It's been a vitally important part of our system that we've taken too much for granted.

This allegiance to the idea that the process matters more than personal conviction has come even from politicians who had a right to object. The most obvious recent example is Al Gore in 2000, after votes left uncounted because of the Supreme Court cost him the election. Bitter supporters urged him not to accept the result and to challenge the legitimacy of the process. Instead, in his concession speech, Gore said, "Other disputes have dragged on for weeks before reaching resolution. And each time, both the victor and the vanquished have accepted the result peacefully and in the spirit of reconciliation…. [O]ur disappointment must be overcome by our love of country."

That was a bare 20 years ago and look how far we've strayed. This year, it's fair to say, Americans' trust in the election process is at best unsettled. Many are worried about foreign meddling. But that's nothing compared to the undermining coming from the very top: A sitting president who refuses, so far at least, to say whether he will accept the results of the election, who floats the idea of postponing it, who questions the validity of the venerable absentee ballot, and who talks constantly about "corrupt" elections. In fact, Susan Glasser writes in The New Yorker, since 2012 Donald Trump has "questioned voting or suggested that an election would be rigged, unfair, or otherwise compromised" 712 times. This year alone he was closing in on 100 times when her article was published. No wonder a lot of Americans of both parties worry about the legitimacy of the results in November.

Now, it's not uncommon to hear charges of voter fraud, but study after study has found that actual voter fraud in the US is rare. It's possible in a city or town, but if you think about how our national elections are run—in 50 states, each with its own rules, and each locality controlling the electoral process—it's hard to see how fraud could take place on any sizable scale.

Which is not to say there aren't problems. Chicanery from politicians bent on disenfranchising voters whose politics they don't like and decades of underfunding the actual machinery of elections give us plenty to be concerned about.

But here's the thing. We have over 200 years of success at transferring power peacefully, often between political leaders who disagreed vehemently with one another. That has been one of the keys to American success. I'm not alone in thinking of this year's vote as the most important of my lifetime, and woe betide us if our confidence in the result—which will play a big part in our willingness to accept the result—is betrayed by politicians seeking to game the system or by elections officials who don't live up to the trust Americans place in them to get it right.

*Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

# State allocates $50 million for emergency education relief

BOSTON- The Baker-Polito Administration announced today it will allocate more than $50 million in federal CARES Act funds to benefit education in elementary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities. The funding from the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund will improve early literacy, expand remote learning opportunities, and cover costs associated with reopening certain schools and colleges, as well as boost financial aid for college students in greater need of financial assistance.

As part of the federal CARES Act, governors in each state were granted a share of discretionary dollars to ensure continuity of educational services during the COVID-19 crisis. The Baker-Polito Administration previously allocated nearly $1 billion in federal funds to help municipalities, school districts, and colleges and universities in the Commonwealth address COVID-related expenses.

The funding announced today will support the following initiatives:

• Up to $10 million for early literacy programs that provide extra help to students through grade 3, aimed at remediating learning loss children may have experienced since schools closed in March, as well as accelerate reading skills of children in high-need communities;

• Up to $7.5 million to expand access to online courses, including advanced placement, early college or dual enrollment courses;

• Up to $25 million to cover COVID-related expenses associated with reopening colleges and universities, as well as certain non-public elementary and secondary schools. Funds will be allocated based on the number and percentage of low-income students these schools enroll;

• Up to $2.5 million in financial aid for low-income college students attending public colleges to ensure they can cover emergency expenses to continue their education;

• And up to $5 million set aside in an emergency reserve fund.

"Our administration is committed to supporting every student in our schools as districts and universities prepare for the start of the school year," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "This $50 million investment represents flexible funding that can be used for a variety of critical resources for schools and colleges as they begin to reopen and bring kids back into the classroom, especially in our most vulnerable communities."

"These additional resources will help us target funding to support schools and colleges recover from effects of the pandemic," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Our administration looks forward to our continued collaboration with school officials statewide on how to best support the safe return to classrooms this fall."

"Besides supporting financial stability and continuity of service in both K-12 and higher education, this plan will give more students access to high-quality online learning opportunities," said Education Secretary James Peyser.

"We know districts will need more funding this year than in a typical school year, and I am pleased to see this money added to the financial support that is already on its way to districts," said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley.

"At a time of great uncertainty for those of us in higher education, this investment in our public colleges and universities and most especially, in our underserved students, will help ease the financial burdens associated with COVID-19 and lay the groundwork for a productive fall semester," said Carlos E. Santiago, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education.

Funding announced today builds on the nearly $1 billion previously allocated to schools, childcare programs, colleges, and universities.

• In June, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the allocation of approximately $200 million from the Commonwealth's federal Coronavirus Relief Fund for costs related to reopening public schools.

• Other funding sources to support school reopening include:

• $500 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund previously allocated to cities and towns.

• $194 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grants.

• $45 million to support the reopening of childcare programs serving low-income children.

• $19 million for special education residential schools.

• $25 million in federal funds for a matching grant program to help school districts and charter schools close technology gaps that inhibit remote learning.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
**The Trial Court**
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**
**50 State Street**
**Springfield, MA 01103**
**(413)748-7758**
**Docket No. HD20C0127CA**
**In the matter of:**
**Brandon Joseph Amara-Hale**
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Brandon Joseph Amara-Hale of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Brandon Joseph Hale**
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/07/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 10, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**
Register of Probate
8/20/2020

**INVITATION FOR BID - CEL BID #20-0482**

Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) invites bids from qualified bidders for a NEW FORD F-550 WITH CAB AND CHASSIS

Specifications may be obtained at Chicopee Electric Light located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 call 413-598-8311 ext. 113.

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this BID should be made in writing to the attention of Natalie Colberg with the BID #20-0482 in the subject line.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable bidding laws of Massachusetts, including M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A-H and M.G.L c. 30, § 39M.

All proposals must be submitted in DUPLICATE form, sealed and marked on the outside "**CEL BID #20-0482**" and be received at the office of Chicopee Electric Light (CEL), Attn., Natalie Colberg, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 **no later than 2:00 pm on September 3, 2020**.

CEL reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the CEL to do so.

Natalie Colberg
Purchasing
8/20/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
**The Trial Court**
**Probate and Family Court**
**Hampden Division**
**50 State Street**
**Springfield, MA 01103**
**(413)748-8600**
**Docket No. HD20P1082EA**
**Estate of:**
**RICHARD G DAVIAU**
**Also Known As:**
**DICK DAVIAU**
**Date of Death: 5/30/2020**
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **DEBORAH A LUNNEY** of SOUTH HADLEY MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**DEBORAH A LUNNEY** of SOUTH HADLEY MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
8/20/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
**The Trial Court**
**Probate and Family Court**
**Hampden Division**
**50 State Street**
**Springfield, MA 01103**
**(413)748-8600**
**Docket No. HD20P0974EA**
**Estate of:**
**MILDRED MAY DUBAY**
**Also Known As:**
**MILDRED M. DUBY**
**Date of Death: 4/19/2020**
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **LISA DESPARD** of WEST SPRINGFIELD MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**LISA DESPARD** of WEST SPRINGFIELD MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
8/20/2020

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**
**Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on A**ugust 27, 2020 at Interstate Towing**, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

**1995 VOLVO 850**
VIN: YV1LS5513S1197792
Juan Ramos
310 Stafford St, Apt 900
Springfield, MA 01104

**1998 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX**
VIN: 1G2WP5214WF217506
Barbara Pelletier
176 Lenox Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**1999 BUELL LIGHTNING**
VIN: 4MZSS11J0X3202471
Elsie Wallace
58 Liberty St
Stamford, CT 06902

**2002 HONDA CIVIC**
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Annette Blair
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Cameron Harrell
211 E Baltimore Ave
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

**2004 CADILLAC SRX**
VIN: 1GYEE637340177094
Motor City Car Company
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Agawam, MA 01001

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VIN: KNDJC733555375502
Dixie Torres
PO Box 371
Springfield, MA 01001

**2005 SUBARU IMPREZA**
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Johnathan Rivera
101 Bancroft St
Springfield, MA 01107

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Roney Morales
286 Griffin St, Apt 2E
Fall River, MA 02724

**2007 SATURN ION**
VIN: 1G8AJ55F77Z163093
Julie Quimby
14 Butler St
Skowheagan, ME 04976

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Caleb Cerda
2305 Jacobs Ladder Rd
Beckett, MA 01223

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Brenda Sweet
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Lujesha Minnifield White
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Springfield, MA 01105

8/13, 8/20, 8/27/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
**The Trial Court**
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**
**50 State Street**
**Springfield, MA 01103**
**(413)748-7758**
**Docket No. HD20P1199EA**
**Estate of:**
**Francis Dolor Leblanc**
**Also known as:**
**Joseph Francis Dolor Roosevelt Leblanc**
**Date of Death: 02/28/2017**
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A- Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Nancy E Leone-Leblanc** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Nancy E Leone-Leblanc** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/11/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 07, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**
Register of Probate
8/20/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
**The Trial Court**
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**
**50 State Street**
**Springfield, MA 01103**
**(413)748-7758**
**Docket No. HD18P0574EA**
**Estate of:**
**Michelle Marie Nowak**
**Date of Death: 01/19/2018**
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Thomas R Nowak** of Chicopee MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

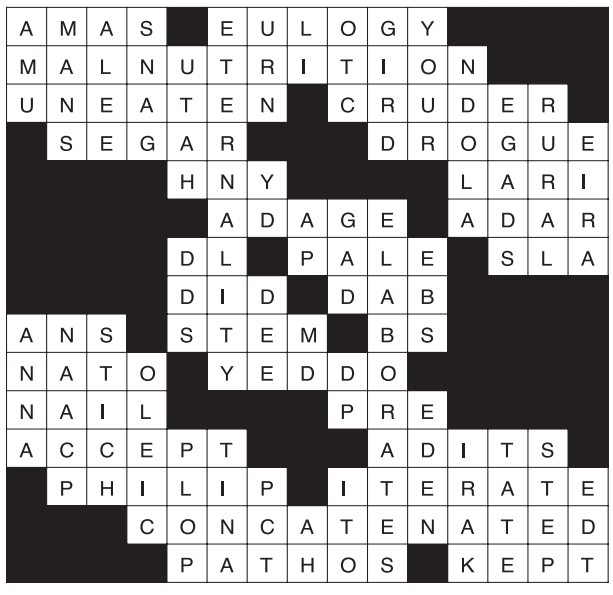
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/04/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 06, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**
Register of Probate
8/20/2020

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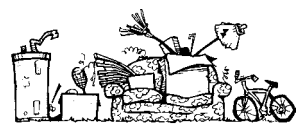

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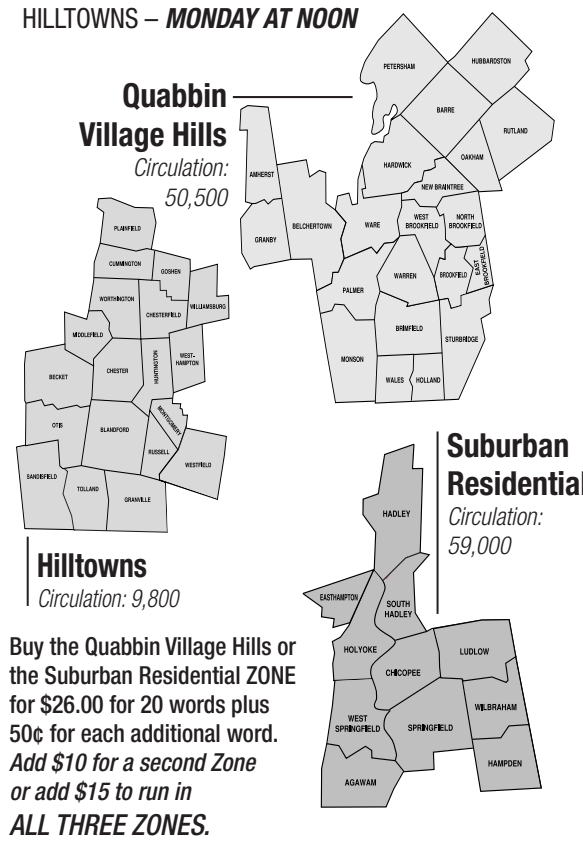


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SCHOOL from page 1

"The School Committee dropped the ball on this one," said Ward 1 Representative Jim Tanhauser. "As far as I can see it, we are taking an unnecessarily high risk by sending our educators and students back to in-person learning."

Also hesitant was Ward 8 Representative David Schryver, who proposed a failed motion requesting all students learn remotely until early November. He questioned the merits of permitting students and educators to reenter the buildings when safety cannot be guaranteed.

"We are asked to pick a plan either going hybrid, remote or face-to-face. I'm still saying that remote would be the way to go," said Schryver. "If one child has COVID, what would happen if that child died? One child. What does it take? Two or 10? No, I'm not for that. I just want to play it very safe."

Mayor John Vieau, the School Committee Chair, encouraged the committee to vote in favor of the hybrid plan. He said he feels strongly that the district is prepared to execute a safe return, noting that the administrators have spent "thousands" of hours crafting safety protocols.

"We would never put anyone in harm's way. That's something I take pride in," said Vieau. "We're smart people, and if you're smart with how you handle this virus, I think you can create a new normal that a lot of people are safe with, and they are."

As of last Wednesday, there were 39 active COVID-19 cases in Chicopee; 17 were reported to be part of a cluster at a congregate living facility, according to Health Director Lisa Sanders. Sanders expressed her support of the hybrid plan, which won over at-large Representative Doug Girard.

"I'm comfortable, personally," said Girard. "I listen to the ones who make the recommendations that are qualified to do so like our governor, our school physician and our health director. Personally, if they say it's safe to open our school buildings then I agree with their recommendations."

Ward 9 Representative Mary Beth Costello was not comfortable. She voiced her concerns to the committee multiple times during the three-hour meeting, which included the lack of input that the district collected from its teachers.

"I would have liked to have a little bit more input from the entire teaching body," said Costello. "I am a little disappointed because I do respect the teaching staff of Chicopee. I think that they work really hard; they're outstanding, and their input is so valuable."

Marjorie Wojcik, the Ward 3 Representative, simply requested that the Superintendent's Office be more thorough in educating the committee on its progress. When addressing Clark, Wojcik admitted to feeling out of the loop.

"That little book that you were reading out of; that is your plan for remote learning in our schools? I'm asking for the board members to get a copy of that so we know what's going on because I am tired of parents calling me and asking questions, and I've got to turn around and say, 'I don't have the answer; I'm sorry I don't have the information,'" said Wojcik.

Students who opt into remote learning for the first quarter of the school year will participate in the Chicopee Virtual Academy. Prior to returning to in-person learning, all students will experience the online platform, which has been revamped since the spring.

"The Chicopee Virtual Academy is a remote plan; the people who are choosing remote already have said that they don't feel safe sending their child to school. They'd still have a normal school day," said Clark.

In mid-March, the district entered unfamiliar territory and, for the considerable future, it will remain there. Clark is aware there has been a strain placed on the city's educators.

"It's going to have been six months at the earliest since we've seen students in front of us. That is difficult for anybody," she said. "I do think that it is important to know if staff members are comfortable because I hear and understand that some people are not. We do have close to 200 educators who are willing to come in."

Clark said the district is fighting a "lose/lose battle," and the School Committee would be criticized regardless of its decision. That said, Clark and her fellow administrators are ready to lead the district into a school year that no one saw coming a year ago.

"We will go out there and teach. All of us if we have to. I can't teach a high-level math class admittedly but I could do something else. We wanted to make sure that we had teachers in place that we could call upon," said Clark.

TOGETHER from page 7

soar, Massachusetts is in a very different position. Many superintendents believe that the health and safety measures they will put in place – especially the redesign of schools to ensure physical distancing, along with requirements for face covering, hand-washing, symptom screening, and rigorous cleaning and sanitizing protocols – create the conditions to begin reopening schools incrementally and responsibly.

Despite these precautions, some communities ultimately will decide, as some already have, that even a partial reopening is not worth the risk, and begin the year with all students learning from home. In those communities, superintendents will work with teachers' unions to design and implement distance learning plans that reflect lessons learned last spring about what worked well and what needs improvement. Districts will have to find creative ways for students and families to "meet" their new teachers, even if not in person, to establish relationships at the start of the school year. Districts operating fully remote models also will have to devise strategies to serve students with the greatest needs, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, children living in poverty, and others who were not fully engaged in distance learning from March to June. Challenging questions remain about how schools can provide additional services remotely to address students' social-emotional needs, especially their mental and physical health.

There is no shortage of opinions about what is the "right" way to approach the new school year. A quick scroll through any social media feed highlights the vast divide on this issue, with proponents from both sides growing increasingly fervent every day. While superintendents have urged state officials to provide more clear direction for school opening, unless state officials change their position in the days ahead, these decisions are left solely in the hands of the superintendents and school committees. Therefore, each superintendent has a weighty responsibility to cut through the noise, examine the facts, weigh the pros and cons, and recommend a plan that best protects and educates the students in their community. Ultimately, each proposal must be approved by the School Committee, but even their decision is not final unless the terms are negotiated with the local teachers' union. All of this occurs while the public health situation – and the response to it – remains a moving target.

Whatever the outcome in each community, the new school year can begin successfully only if everyone involved commits to working together for the benefit of students. In the remaining weeks before students resume learning, we have a critical opportunity for parents, educators, union leaders and community partners – regardless of the model they each wanted to see adopted – to move forward with a shared sense of purpose. We are living in imperfect times, to say the least, so while no plan can achieve a "perfect" result, let's all strive to be creative, open-minded, resilient, and unequivocally determined to get our students back to learning.

Thomas Scott, Ed.D. is executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D. is president of MASS and superintendent of the Fairhaven Public Schools.

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